

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 17, 24, 25, and 32. Claims 1-16 were previously canceled, and claims 18, 22, 23, 26, 30, and 31 have been canceled herein. Accordingly, claims 17, 19-21, 24, 25, 27-29, and 32 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 22, 24, 30, and 32. The Examiner objected to these claims but stated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

Claim 22 depended from base claim 17 and intervening claim 18. Rather than rewriting claim 22, the Applicant has incorporated the limitations of claims 18 and 22 into base claim 17. Therefore the allowance of amended claim 17 is respectfully requested.

Claims 19-21 depend from amended claim 17 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 17. Therefore, the allowance of claims 19-21 is respectfully requested.

Claim 24 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 17 and intervening claims 18 and 23. Therefore the allowance of amended claim 24 is respectfully requested.

Claim 30 depended from base claim 25 and intervening claim 26. Rather than rewriting claim 30, the Applicant has incorporated the limitations of claims 26 and 30 into base claim 25. Therefore the allowance of amended claim 25 is respectfully requested.

Claims 27-29 depend from amended claim 25 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 25. Therefore, the allowance of claims 27-29 is respectfully requested.

Claim 32 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 25 and intervening claims 26 and 31. Therefore the allowance of amended claim 32 is respectfully requested.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 17-21 and 25-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of Yoon, *et al.* (US 6,987,956). The applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the examiner's suggestion under allowable subject matter. All other claims have been canceled. Therefore the withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 23 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of Yoon, *et al.* (US 6,987,956) and further in view of Amit, *et al.* (US 2002/0131426). The applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the examiner's suggestion under allowable subject matter. All other claims have been canceled. Therefore the withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

4.) Prior Art Not Relied Upon

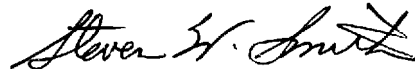
In paragraph 8 on page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure. The applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the examiner's suggestion under allowable subject matter.

5.) Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 17, 19-21, 24, 25, 27-29, and 32.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven W. Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steven W. Smith
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